

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



Massachusetts Legislature Passes ARPA Spending Bill

I'm proud to announce that, along with my colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, I voted to pass a significant spending bill that utilizes American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) surplus funds to facilitate recovery throughout the Commonwealth with one-time investments in housing, environment and climate mitigation, economic development, workforce, health and human services, and education.

The House bill includes a consolidated amendment with an estimated \$44.3 million in funds for seniors and health and human services. As my colleague and House Chair of the Elder Affairs Committee Rep. Tom Stanley says, "No group in the commonwealth has endured more loss and hardship over the past year and a half than our elder citizens and the people who cared for them."

Bolstering our local health infrastructure is essential work and the House bill allocates significant funds for financially strained hospitals and community health centers. The bill also includes over \$150 million for local and regional public health systems. It includes more than \$250 million for behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, as well as \$100 million for workforce initiatives with \$15 million specifically for community health centers.

The House bill also features workforce investments that recognize human service workers as the essential elements they are in senior health delivery. It allocates \$500 million for bonus payments to COVID front-line workers who kept our state going through the pandemic and other efforts to support and expand the human service workforce.

Among many other investments, the bill appropriates funds for affordable housing, with \$150 million directed toward public housing maintenance and \$150 million to create permanent supportive housing for seniors, as well as those who are chronically homeless, survivors of domestic violence, and Veterans. The bill also includes \$100 million for homeownership assistance and \$100 million for production and preservation of affordable rental housing for residents of municipalities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the spending bill, I earmarked nearly \$1.8 million for needs and priorities in Maynard and the district at-large, including:

- \$410,000 for **environmental and wastewater infrastructure improvements** in Maynard
- \$100,000 to **fight food insecurity** in the Third Middlesex District through food bank investments
- \$100,000 for the Fresh Start Furniture Bank of Hudson to **support increased need and assist Afghan refugees and families settling in the Commonwealth**

The COVID-19 pandemic exacted a harsh toll on many, and our state government, working with our partners in Congress and the Biden Administration, is working hard to mitigate that with significant, targeted investments that are directed at the communities hit hardest by this pandemic, and to the services most needed to reverse the effects of the pandemic and help our residents get back on their feet.

Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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